



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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RANUNCULUS PEDATIFIDUS **NORTHERN BUTTERCUP**

Northern Buttercup is a perennial with 1-several erect stems that are 10-30 cm high and arising from fibrous roots. Each basal leaf has a petiole that is 3-8 cm long and a spade-shaped blade that is 5-12 cm long and deeply palmately lobed. The few stem leaves have 5-7 linear lobes and become sessile upward. Foliage is sparsely to densely covered with long hair. The 1 to several long-stalked flowers have 5 spreading, hairy sepals that are 5-6 mm long, and the 5 yellow petals are 8-10 mm long. The 25-80 finely short-hairy to glabrous achenes are 2 mm long, have a curved beak that is 1 mm long, and are borne in an egg-shaped cluster. Flowering in June-August.

RANUNCULUS VERECUNDUS has petals only 4-5 mm long, and *R. CARDIOPHYLLUS* has basal leaves that are merely toothed. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.